

## Madison County Department of Emergency Medical Services



### Standard Operating Guideline

Title	External Foreign Body Removal
Number	047
Adoption Date	8/5/08
Revision Date	
Approved by	Lewis Jenkins, EMS Director



#### Purpose:

To provide a guideline for outlining which types of foreign bodies can be removed from a person's skin by MEMS providers. This guideline is meant to cover a person who does not need transport and only wants a foreign body removed. This guideline does not cover any airway foreign bodies or impaled objects.

#### Policy:

1. Hymenoptera Stinger (honey bee, yellow jacket, wasp, hornet) – Scrape off the skin with an EMS ID card or similar hard object.
2. Splinters or embedded objects (glass, wood, metal, etc.) – Under NO circumstances will MEMS providers remove any of these or similar objects from a person's skin. The reasoning behind this is tetanus liability. All people with these or similar objects in their skin must be directed to their PCP or an ED. Transport if needed or requested.
3. Ticks – Under NO circumstances will these insects be removed by MEMS providers from a person's skin. The reasoning behind this is tick-borne illness liability. All people with ticks in their skin must be directed to their PCP or an ED. Transport if needed or requested.
4. Police Taser prongs – Whenever EMS has been called for a person in police custody who has been subdued by a Taser, the following situations should be considered:
  - a. Taser prong removal – Under NO circumstances will a MEMS provider remove Taser prongs from a person's skin. Police officers should have been instructed on the correct way to remove this device. If they do not know the procedure, the patient must be directed to or transported to an ED.
  - b. Taser patient assessment – If we are called to assess a person who has been subdued by a Taser, the patient must be transported to an ED. If the patient is in custody, then a police officer is required for the transport. Call Duty Officer, if needed.